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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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25X1

SUBJECT Student Volunteers for the Chinese
Communist Armed Services

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1. The recent movement in Communist China calling upon the students to volunteer for the armed services will introduce into the armed services a larger number of educated elements than any time before the Communist regime. This may have significant effect upon the make-up and the quality of the armed services.
2. The first movement calling for student volunteers took place between December 1950 and early February 1951. It was successful enough to inspire a similar movement in June 1951 which is much wider in scope. It is rumored that 200,000 students will be recruited to be trained as cadres for the new armed forces and for replacements of the Korean war casualties. The officially announced figures of volunteer registration in various regions of the country are as follows:

Students volunteering

East China.....120,000
Central and South.....110,000
North China.....42,952
Southwest.....25,000
Total.....307,952

3. A substantial number of the volunteers come from the rural districts and smaller towns. Of the some 30,000 volunteering students in Kwangtung province, only about 3,000 are from the city of Canton; the rest are from rural areas and small towns. Of the students registering for armed service training, an estimated 40-50 per cent are accepted in this movement, as compared to only about 20 per cent in the first movement.

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4. The voluntary character of the mass movement was fairly high, and only a small number of those who registered were pressured into doing so. But students are now organized into cells, and through those cells, political and group pressure is exerted intimately upon the individuals. Students are further told that only a small number will be honored with acceptance or selection. "Stand out to be selected by the motherland" is the slogan. As a result of the application of various types of pressure, many unwilling students register reluctantly for fear of reprisals.

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Students in senior high schools are more welcome than college students, as judged from the much higher percentage of acceptance from the former.

1. ☐ Comment. The purpose of this is to increase the chance of successful indoctrination.

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